

April 7, 1992

LB 407, 602, 909, 1017, 1019

Health and the Department of Health agreed all that we should not put the drawing of blood, phlebotomy, under the Medical Practice Act. It should be exempted from that when done under the supervision of a licensed health care professional authorized to draw blood. This provision was through the LB 407 and all three agreed to this provision. Again, LB 602 by Senator Crosby dealt with this matter. The next concept that we deal with deals with LB 1017, a bill that would have severely restricted some of the access to the general public to look at vital statistics. There was great opposition to that by the news media. There was great support for it by the legal community. There was concern about fraudulent use of vital statistics. What we've got here is a compromise that is not of...of controversy. It deals with the problem of tightening up access to birth and death records so that we might be able to catch fraudulent use, so that you can...the Department of Health would be authorized to work with other state departments of health and other law enforcement to identify problems. When people come into look at vital statistic records they'll have access to it, but they'll have to identify themselves and so we can double check people that have looked at the records and maybe come back and request...a copy of the record, which we found then could be used to get fraudulent IDs, and this should help tighten up this problem. It doesn't completely address some of the concerns about general access to vital records, but it goes a long way to tightening up the problem. And at least for that much we're grateful to have reached this compromise. And finally the other provision of this amendment deals with LB 909. It's a bill that Senator Withem introduced from Sarpy County. It looks at the problem of marriage licenses. Currently a county clerk issues a marriage license, but when you want to correct the marriage license for whatever reason you go to the state Department of Health and the state department makes that change, but they don't get back to the county clerk to let them know that a change has been made. And so there can be erroneous information at the county clerk level on marriage certifications, and this would clarify that the Department of Health must contact the county clerk and inform them of any changes. These are all I think important measures that have no controversy and should be adopted, and I would move for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the amendment? Senator Cudaback.